Claims for damages of perishable items

1525. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money the Indian Railways have been paying to the private parties specially traders of perishable items as claims for damages per year during the last 3 years;

(b) what is the reason for paying such huge amount; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to verify the number of true claims and what steps have been taken to check this malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The amount of compensation paid for loss of and damage to booked consignments are not maintained separately for private parties and other parties. However, the total amount of compensation paid to all parties on perishable items during the last 3 years has been as under:—

Year	Amount in lakhs of rupees
1983-84	309·05
1984-85	320·87
1985-86	391·67

(b) Claims arise due to theft, pilferage, damage, delay in transit, over-carriage, misdespatch etc.

(c) Claims are paid after proper verification of loss in accordance with provision of Indian Railways Act. Claims which are not tenable are repudiated. Claims prevention measures are being regularly taken to minimise incidents of loss, damage, etc.

Improved Passenger amenities at Railway Stations

1526. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposals under Government's consideration to provide improved passenger amenities at various stations including Chandrapur railway station in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration to provide more passenger amenities at Chandrapur Railway Station in Maharashtra. In absence of the names of other stations, it is not possible to provide similar information.

(b) Does not arise.

Linking of Meghalaya to Guwahati Byrnihat railway head

1527. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Meghalaya is likely to be connected with a railway head from Guwahati to Byrnihat;

(b) whether a new railway line is proposed to be constructed to divert the existing one from Guwahati to Upper Assam; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is no proposal to construct the railway line from Guwahati to Burnihat as the Meghalaya Government have not agreed to locate the terminal at Byrnihat.

(b) and (c) A survey for Broad Gauge railway line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh connecting Nagaon, Jorhat and Sibsagar has been conducted. The length of the proposed line alongwith extension

to Tinsukia is 464 kms. and is estimated to cost Rs. 342 crores. Another survey for conversion of the existing MG line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh into BG has also been conducted. The length of this line is 545 kms. and is estimated to cost Rs. 327 crores. A final decision regarding extension of BG line beyond Guwahati will be taken after examination of the Survey Reports.

Vayudoot service between Shillong and Delhi

1528. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vayudoot earns the highest revenue from the Calcutta-Shillong route;

(b) whether there is any proposal to connect Delhi with Shillong by Vayudoot service in the near future;

(c) whether Government propose to improve the Shillong Airport with facilities like telecommunication services, the fueling station and its runway;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) no, Sir.

(c) to (e) There are no plans at present because the existing facilities are adequate to support the present aircraft operations.

Bridge over Shillong-Tamabil National Highway

1529. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to construct a new bridge over Umshyrpi stream on the National Highway (Shillong-Tamabil Road) at the 4th furlong of the 2nd mile;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present bridge built about a century ago is in a very bad condition;

(c) whether it is a fact that the existing bridge was constructed with the maximum load capacity of ten tonnes only and that at present, trucks and buses carrying a load of fifteen and twenty tonnes are plying through this bridge; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The existing bridge which is very old was constructed for Class 12 loading and its present condition is satisfactory. No records are maintained for the load carried by trucks and buses plying over the bridge. However, efforts are being made to restrict the load of buses and trucks according to the loading capacity of the bridge.

(d) The reconstruction of the bridge according to the present day loading standards will improve the load carrying capacity.

Introduction of flight by Foreign Air Lines

1530. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign airlines have requested Government for permission for introduction of their flights to India;

(b) if so, what are the names of these airlines with details of new routes requested by each of the airlines;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Air India has started or propose to start some new routes; and